

SPUD'S WILDLIFE REPORT INC.

This Month:
The morning dew continues to draw out scales of big yellowish Bayana slugs. Watch your Step!

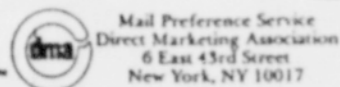
Rescued an unlucky Monarch butterfly after it was casually stepped on by a large tourist foot.



On a sadder note, we are seeing plenty of Marbled Murrelets on the beach dead... washed up from storms out at sea...



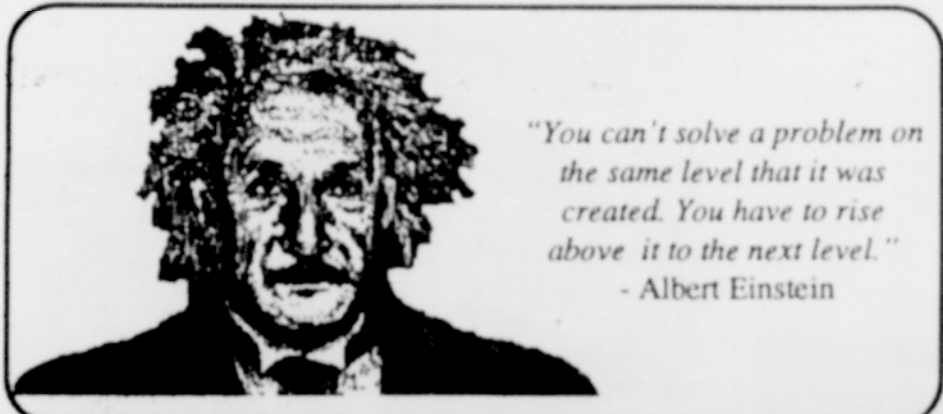
And here's an animal gene of us here spotted yet - they don't live here. The Sperry whale, growing up to 65 feet in length.



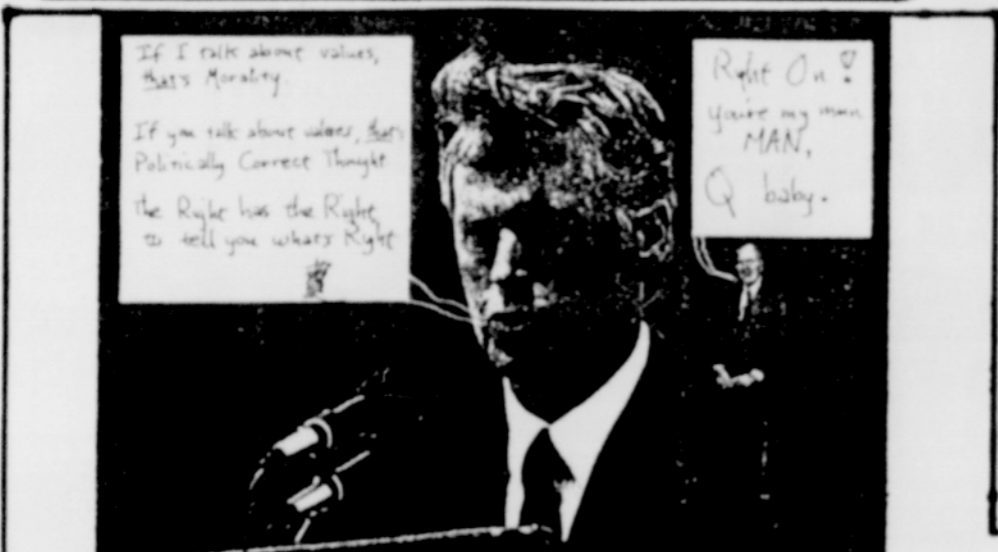
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"You can't solve a problem on the same level that it was created. You have to rise above it to the next level."
- Albert Einstein



If I talk about values, that's Morality.

If you talk about values, that's Politically Correct Thought.
The Right has the Right to tell you what's Right.

Right On?
You're my man,
MAN,
Q baby.

We're going to have the best-educated American people in the world.

No, I had no problem communicating with Latin American heads of state though now I do wish I had paid more attention to Latin when I was in high school.

What a terrible thing to have lost one's mind. Or not to have a mind at all. How true that is.
-- winning friends while speaking to the United Negro College Fund

I would guess that there's adequate low-income housing in this country.

'It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.'

I stand by all the misstatements that I've made.

The State of the Ancient Forests

As Congress debates Ancient Forest Act, Rep. Mike Kopetski assumes a key role, and the fate of huge forests and millions of their inhabitants may hang in the balance.

by Jim Boeder
of the Marys Peak Alliance

On June 18 the House Agriculture Committee passed its version of the Ancient Forest Act (H.R. 4899). The bill, based on legislation introduced by Oregon's own Mike Kopetski, temporarily bans logging on 6.8 million acres of Northwest federal forests. Passage of any forest protection legislation out of this committee is noteworthy; it's dominated by a conservative group of males that typically favor resource extraction. And, in order to survive this gauntlet, a forest protection bill will be, by nature, less than desirable to ancient forest advocates. To his credit—and contrary to most of the Northwest congressional delegation—Rep. Kopetski has not stonewalled the process, and his bill adopted an alternative proposed by the congressionally appointed Scientific Panel or "Gang of Four". These two facts, now combined with passage of his bill, put Mr. Kopetski in a leadership position as legislation moves to the House floor. The preservation community may have a more receptive audience there.

The bill provides a 50/50 chance for survival of a functional old growth network and of marbled murrelet nesting habitat over the next 100 years, and offers slightly greater protection for fish and other old-growth dependent species. Quoting from the panel's report: "The latitude for natural catastrophes and uncertainties in current scientific knowledge under this alternative is extremely limited." We must ask whether we can accept odds no better than a coin toss when deciding the fate of old growth forests and their inhabitants. There are many opportunities for citizen action as legislation approaches a floor vote.

At this writing, the House Interior Committee is scheduled to draft its own, more preservation-oriented version of H.R. 4899. Progress in this committee has been delayed repeatedly by the blatant meddling of the Speaker of the House Tom Foley, and by committee member Peter DeFazio, who is uncomfortable with the high level of protection being proposed.

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge William Dwyer issued yet another injunction against the Forest Service, effectively shutting down the agency's timber sale program in the Northwest. In his statement, Judge Dwyer states the agency had not completely assessed and included: 1) a recent scientific study showing an accelerated rate of Spotted owl decline in four study areas (eight percent per year decline in female owls); 2) the findings of the congressionally appointed Scientific Panel; and 3) the effect on owl survival should the God Squad exempt any of the forty-four (Bureau of Land Management (BLM) jeopardy timber sales from the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. (It exempted thirteen.)

In a recent memo released to the public, Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson proclaimed that the agency can reduce its clear cutting by as much as seventy percent from 1988 levels. The memo, brimming with eco-speak, states clear cutting would be reduced except in "areas where it is essential to meet forest plan objectives," and "to provide for the establishment and growth of desired trees that are shade intolerant [e.g., Douglas fir]." In case there were any doubts, the letter closes: "There will be little reduction in timber volume over the long term."

This "directive" comes on the heels of agency attempts to severely limit citizen access to the administrative appeals process. Under the guidance of the Bush administration, the Forest Service continues to be an obstacle to progress.

The BLM's decision to request exemption from the Endangered Species Act for forty-four Western Oregon timber sales reflects that agency's similar unwillingness to consider non-timber resources.

What does the current situation mean for our local forests? For

the Coast Range, some of the BLM lands on the south side of Marys Peak, and much of the remaining native forest in the Northern Coast Range (Hebo area) would be open for harvest. In the Cascades, Big Meadows, Jump-Off Joe and the western side of Three Pyramids would also receive no protection.

What can you do?

First, call or write Mike Kopetski and thank him for his leadership in the Agriculture Commit-



This photo was taken within the Beteman and Robin sale of old-growth timber in the Coos BLM district. The "God Squad" chose to exempt this sale from the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

tee. Specifically, thank him for adopting a scientific approach to ancient forest management. Additionally, urge him to lobby for greater protection than his bill currently proposes; a 50/50 chance of survival for our remaining ancient forests is not something that our representative should be promoting. Make it clear that you strongly support him in going beyond minimum protection levels. How can we ever expect our representatives to do the right thing for ecosystems if we don't demonstrate a willingness and a constituency that supports such actions?

Make no mistake, by proposing even a minimum level of protection, Rep. Kopetski has incurred the wrath of the radical industrialists and their followers. He is now targeted for unseating in the general election, and effort will be needed to prove that supporting biodiversity is not political suicide. People are organizing state-wide in order to make an example out of Rep. Kopetski's initiative. Make the call or write the letter today!

Representative Peter DeFazio, in his role as a member of the House Interior Committee, has been attempting to derail the Miller bill (which advocates stronger protection measures than the Agriculture Committee version), and he has strayed from the alternatives provided by the Scientific Panel. As noted above, his and Speaker Foley's efforts have been responsible for gridlock in the Interior Committee; and a weakened version of Chairman Miller's bill may be the end result. Rep. DeFazio is telling preservation groups that he isn't hearing any support for strong protection measures from his constituency. Whether this is true or not, don't you think it's time to prove otherwise?

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continued from pg. 2
Jesus said:
"Love thy neighbor
as thyself."
Matthew 22:39
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